



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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ESCAPED DCS YOUTH BACK IN STATE CUSTODY 17-YEAR OLD TURNS HIMSELF INTO POLICE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – A 17-year old juvenile justice student who escaped from DCS custody Sunday night is in custody, following an intensive search by state and local officials. The guard who drove the youth from Woodland Hills Youth Detention Center to Metro General Hospital for doctor's visit has been removed from any contact with children pending the outcome of an internal investigation. Jeffrey Brumett had been a Woodland Hills guard for two months.

Brumett's initial account of how a handcuffed and shackled 17-year-old faked a seizure in the van, only to escape when the guard opened a door to check on him, is under close scrutiny. DCS investigators now surmise the escape happened far differently than first reported: Brumett may have actually taken the juvenile to visit the youth's girlfriend. The 17-year-old likely escaped from her home – and not from the van.

The Woodland Hills driver left the youth detention center around 9 p.m. Sunday to take the student to Metro General Hospital because of an injury sustained that day in the gym.

Woodland Hills officials did not know about the escape until after 11 p.m., when the driver returned to the Nashville facility and told his colleagues that the student had fled. That's when DCS internal affairs investigators and Metro police were alerted.

"In this case, we've done everything we can to minimize the risk to the community," said Deputy Commissioner Steve Hornsby, the head of DCS's Juvenile Justice division. "Of course, we're glad that the student is back in custody. A lot of people, including Metro Police officers, worked very hard to make that happen. And we're still working hard on this case to make sure we continue to keep the public safe."

The 17-year-old called police from a Nashville convenience store early Tuesday, telling them he was ready to surrender. He is in Metro Juvenile Detention, awaiting a hearing Wednesday. He is charged with felony escape, and DCS will be asking the district attorney general to consider filing a motion to transfer him to adult court or for a determinate sentence that would keep him in custody until his 19th birthday.

The internal DCS inquiry into the case is ongoing.